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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 001598

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/ESC/TFS (BSTEPHENSON), S/CT (TKUSHNER),
EUR/UBI, IO/PHO (APEREZ),
NSC FOR MRUPPERT,
TREASURY FOR JZARATE,
AND OFAC DIRECTOR (RWERNER)

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TAGS: [ETTC](#) [KTFN](#) [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [CVIS](#) [ECON](#) [LVPR](#)

SUBJECT: TERRORIST FINANCE: IARA AND FIVE OFFICIALS, JTJ
DESIGNATION (LISTS 62 & 63)

REF: A. STATE 222164

[1B](#). STATE 222244
[1C](#). STATE 219924

Classified By: POL/ECON COUNSELOR MARY DALY FOR
REASONS 1.4.(B) AND (D)

1.(C) Summary. Emboff, drawing on reftel points, spoke on October 19 to Maurice Biggar, Deputy Director for International Terrorism & Illicit Drugs and his colleague, Eoin Duggan, at the DFA. According to Biggar and Duggan the USG domestic designation of IARA is an issue of concern as it targets an Irish citizen, Ibrahim Buisir. The GOI has no information on JTJ operations within Ireland. The IARA designation came as a surprise, but not an unwelcome one. Ireland does not currently have legal recourse to freeze assets of suspected terrorism financiers. The GOI also does not have far-reaching intelligence capabilities, so greatly appreciates information-sharing and cooperation with the USG.

If both such designations are approved through the UN 1267 Sanctions Committee, the EU will follow suit, thereby requiring legal action in Ireland and allowing Irish authorities to freeze assets of Buisir. The Irish are likely to welcome such action. End Summary.

List 62: The Islamic African Relief Agency (IARA), Ibrahim Buisir

2.(C) Biggar had no new information to report regarding the IARA; however, Ibrahim Buisir, who was named last week as having ties to Al-Qaeda, is certainly of interest as a dual Irish-Libyan with links to terrorist financing. Buisir's designation on the US domestic list came as a surprise to the Irish, and the Irish government would have appreciated a heads up. That said, the Irish also consider Buisir to be a problem. Recently, they tried to prosecute him for credit card fraud but he was released on a technicality. He is now living on welfare.

3.(C) The USG domestic designation of Buisir does not change his status. As an Irish citizen, he is free to move his assets and to travel, both within country and abroad. Current Irish law does not allow for the arrest of an individual suspected of terrorism financing unless the EU has designated the person. (Note: A criminal and terrorism law is pending ratification this fall.) If the USG designation is pursued and approved by the UN 1267 Sanctions Committee, the EU will automatically adopt it, allowing Ireland's Central Bank legal means to freeze his assets. The process from the EU approval to Irish application usually takes a matter of days. The Irish are likely to welcome this designation.

4.(C) Buisir has successfully used the press to gain sympathy in the past. The DFA has concerns that he may do so again, claiming persecution by the USG. To date, though, only one article has made it in the press regarding the designation and Buisir has refrained from public comments.

List 63: Jama'at Al-Tawhid Wa'al-Jihad (JTJ)

5.(U) The GOI has no information on current activities of Jama'at Al-Tawhid Wa'al-Jihad (JTJ) in Ireland. The DFA welcomes this designation and information sharing on terrorism financing. Biggar emphasized that, as with Buisir, the Irish government cannot act until the UN and EU have acted.

Working Together

[16](#). For the purposes of better understanding the GOI, it is important to highlight the eagerness and willingness the DFA

expressed regarding the fight against terrorism. Biggar mentioned that the DFA and the Gardai (Irish national police) do not have as close a working relationship as they would like. As a result, information sharing is limited and rare. Thus, the USG briefings with the DFA are well received and appreciated. The free flow of information is always welcome.

KENNY